

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/625,574

Examiner

Mark Halpern

Applicant(s)

STOEHR ET AL.

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment received 8/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27-32.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070817.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Valance on 8/20/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 33-38 are cancelled.

Claim 30 is replaced and recites in an independent form as follows:

- 30. (currently amended) A method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component of high quality, said method consisting of the steps of:
 - a) providing a press mold comprising an upper mold part, a lower mold part and, optionally, a ring;
 - b) receiving a glass body in the press mold so that the glass body is between the upper mold part and the lower mold part;
 - c) applying a voltage across the glass body received in the press mold in step b);
 - d) during the applying of the voltage across the glass body in step c), heating the press mold continuously to a press mold temperature above a sticking temperature (T_o) and until a glass body temperature of said glass body reaches said press mold temperature, wherein said sticking temperature (T_o) is the glass body temperature at which the glass body would adhere to the press mold if said voltage were not applied across the glass body during step c);
 - e) after said glass body temperature reaches said press mold temperature above the sticking temperature (T_o) and during the applying of the voltage across the glass body, in a first press stage maintaining said press mold temperature constant and at the same time applying a pressure to said glass body and maintaining said pressure at a constant maximum value during said first press stage;
 - f) in a second press stage following said first press stage simultaneously continuously decreasing said pressure applied to said glass body and reducing said press mold temperature;
 - g) in a third press stage following said second press stage maintaining said pressure applied to said glass body constant at a pressure value reached at an end of said second press stage and maintaining said press mold temperature constant at a temperature value reached at an end of said second press stage;
 - h) in a fourth press stage following said third press stage simultaneously lowering

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said press mold temperature and lowering said pressure applied to said glass body;
i) removing the glass body from said press mold to thus obtain the optical component, wherein said optical component has deviations from predetermined dimensions that are smaller than 100 nm, and
after said glass body temperature reaches said press mold temperature above the sticking temperature (T_0) and during the applying of the voltage across the glass body, rapidly cooling the press mold to reduce said press mold temperature -.

2) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance is that the cited prior art does not show a method of precision pressing a glass body to form an optical component, the method **consisting of** the following steps: placing a glass body mold in a press mold between an upper mold part and a lower mold part; applying a voltage across the glass body and heating the press mold continuously to a press mold temperature above a sticking temperature and until the temperature of said glass body reaches a press mold temperature, wherein said sticking temperature is the glass body temperature at which the glass body would adhere to the press mold; **in a first press stage** maintaining said press mold temperature constant and at the same time applying a pressure to said glass body and maintaining said pressure at a constant maximum value; **in a second press stage** following said first press stage simultaneously decreasing said pressure applied to said glass body and reducing said press mold temperature; **in a third press stage** following said second press stage maintaining said pressure applied to said glass body constant at a pressure value reached at an end of said second press stage and maintaining said press mold temperature constant at a temperature value reached at an end of said second press stage; **in a fourth press stage** following said third press stage simultaneously lowering said press mold temperature and lowering said pressure

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applied to said glass body; and removing the glass body from said press mold to thus obtaining the optical component, wherein said optical component has deviations from predetermined dimensions that are smaller than 100 nm (claims 27, 30).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone no. is 571-272-1190.

/Mark Halpern/
Primary Examiner
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